

# Center for Slavic and East European Studies

## The Berlin Wall

Contact Us:

140 Enarson Classroom Building

2009 Millikan Road

Columbus OH, 43210

[slaviccenter.osu.edu](http://slaviccenter.osu.edu)

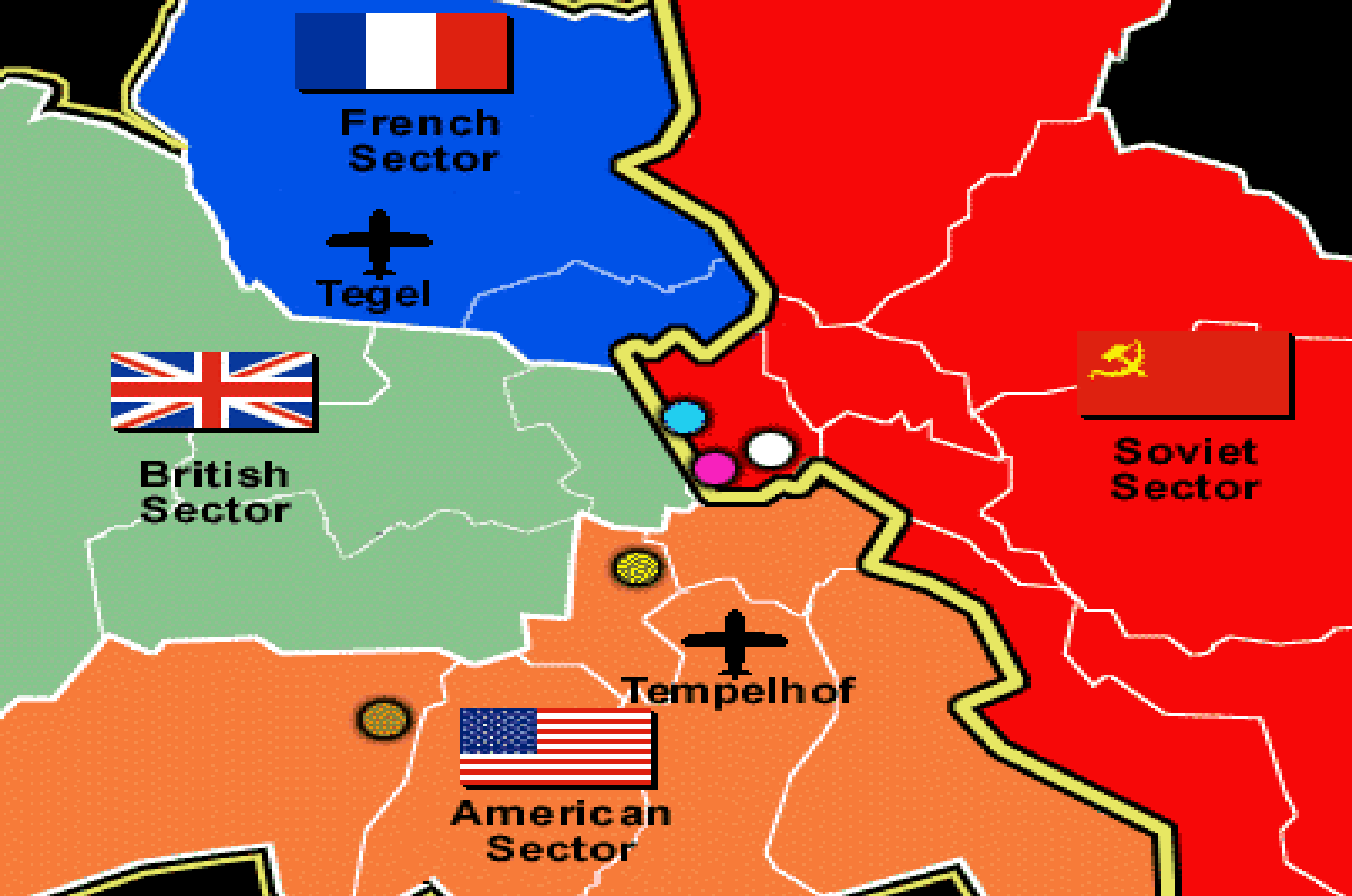
# Background

- Occupation Zones
- Different approaches to dealing with post-war Germany
- Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan
- Berlin Blockade/ Berlin Airlift
- Establishment of two states
- NATO v Warsaw Pact



## Post-War Division of Germany

From: [http://www.learneurope.eu/files/4513/7509/8676/Division\\_of\\_Germany\\_1945.jpg](http://www.learneurope.eu/files/4513/7509/8676/Division_of_Germany_1945.jpg)



## Division of Berlin

# Why the Wall Was Built

- Difference in living standards
- Mass emigration to the West
- Danger to the Soviet system

# Architects of the Wall: Walter Ulbricht and Erich Honecker



From: <http://blog.svd.se/kultur/files/2014/03/spd5bb26.jpg> and

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Bundesarchiv\\_Bild\\_183-R1220-401,\\_Erich\\_Honecker.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-R1220-401,_Erich_Honecker.jpg)



**AUGUST 13TH 1961**

## **Building of the Wall**

From: <http://blogs.dw.de/insider/files/BerlinWall.jpg>

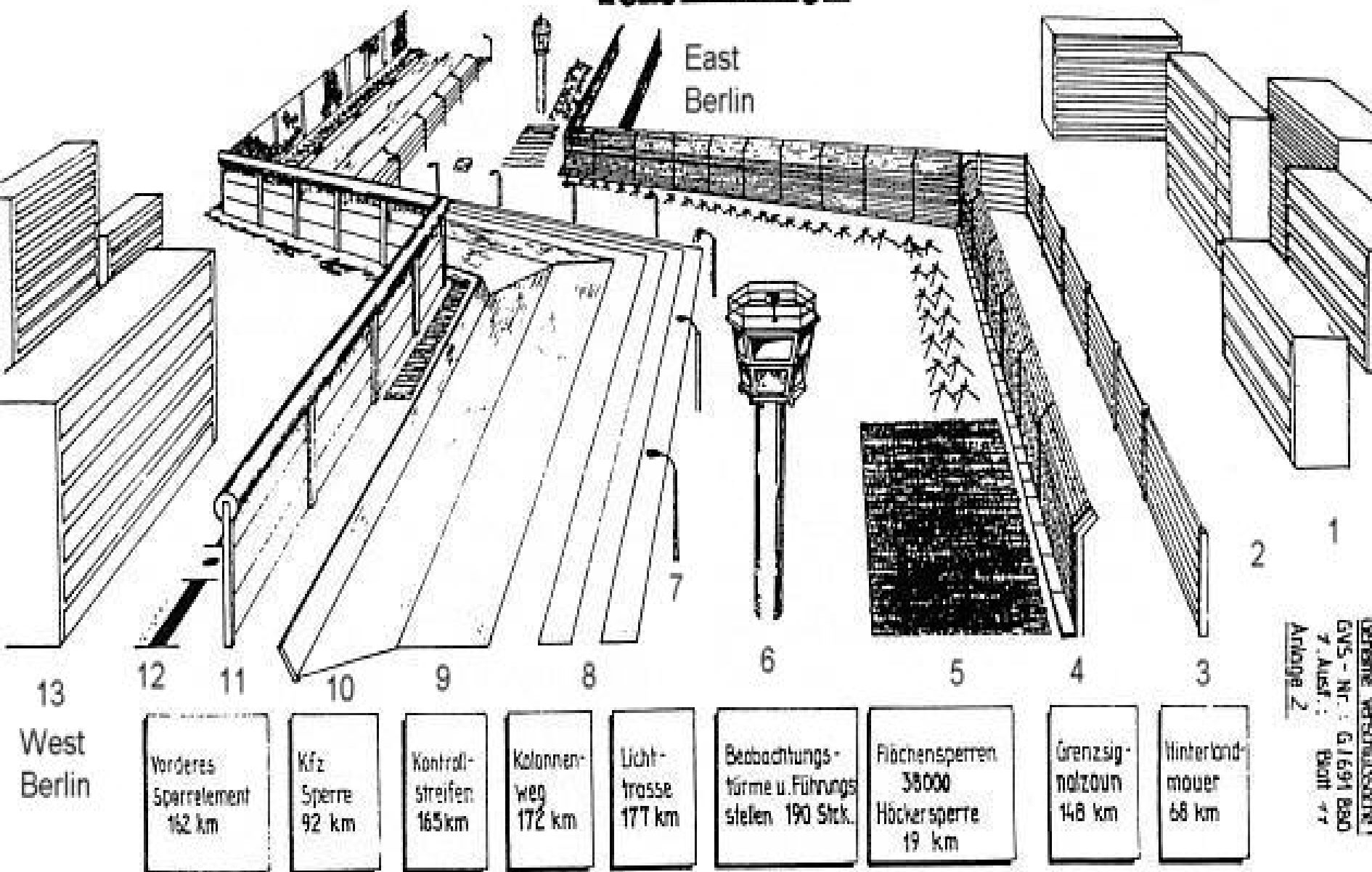








# Pionier - und signaltechnischer Ausbau der Staatsgrenze zu BERLIN-West (gegenwärtig)



# What was The Wall?

- Length around West Berlin: 96 miles
- Border between East and West Berlin: 27 miles
- Border between West Berlin and East Germany: 69 miles
- Border through residential areas: 23 mi
- Watch towers: 302
- Height: 12 ft
- Persons killed on the Berlin Wall: 192
- Persons injured by shooting: approx. 200



## Standoff at Checkpoint Charlie

From: [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-9LjoHCJztEE/TqVLZ7rZP0I/AAAAAAAAABE4/LHNyeAQWkO8/s1600/wall011.sJPG\\_950\\_2000\\_0\\_75\\_0\\_50\\_50.sJPG.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-9LjoHCJztEE/TqVLZ7rZP0I/AAAAAAAAABE4/LHNyeAQWkO8/s1600/wall011.sJPG_950_2000_0_75_0_50_50.sJPG.jpg)  
eg

# Escaping to West Berlin

- Different escape methods
- Dangerous
- Peter Fechter, 18 year old shot trying to climb the Wall
- East German soldiers were rewarded for shooting escapees







# Precursors

- Uprisings in 1956 (Hungary) and 1968 (Czechoslovakia)
- Moderation of stance against churches
- Change in escapee policy
- Gorbachev, perestroika, and glasnost
- Solidarity Movement (Poland)
- Opening of border between Hungary and Austria

# Autumn 1989

- East German travel ban to Hungary and Czechoslovakia
- Leipzig protests
- Egon Krenz replaces Erich Honecker
- Proposed changes in travel policy
- Press conference on the evening of November 9th



**November 9 , 1989**





# Demolition and Celebrations

- The Wall still stood after November 9th
- June 13, 1990 German military officially dismantles the Wall
- Musicians and artists like Crosby, Stills, & Nash, Leonard Bernstein, and David Hasselhoff give concerts in celebration
- Coalition government

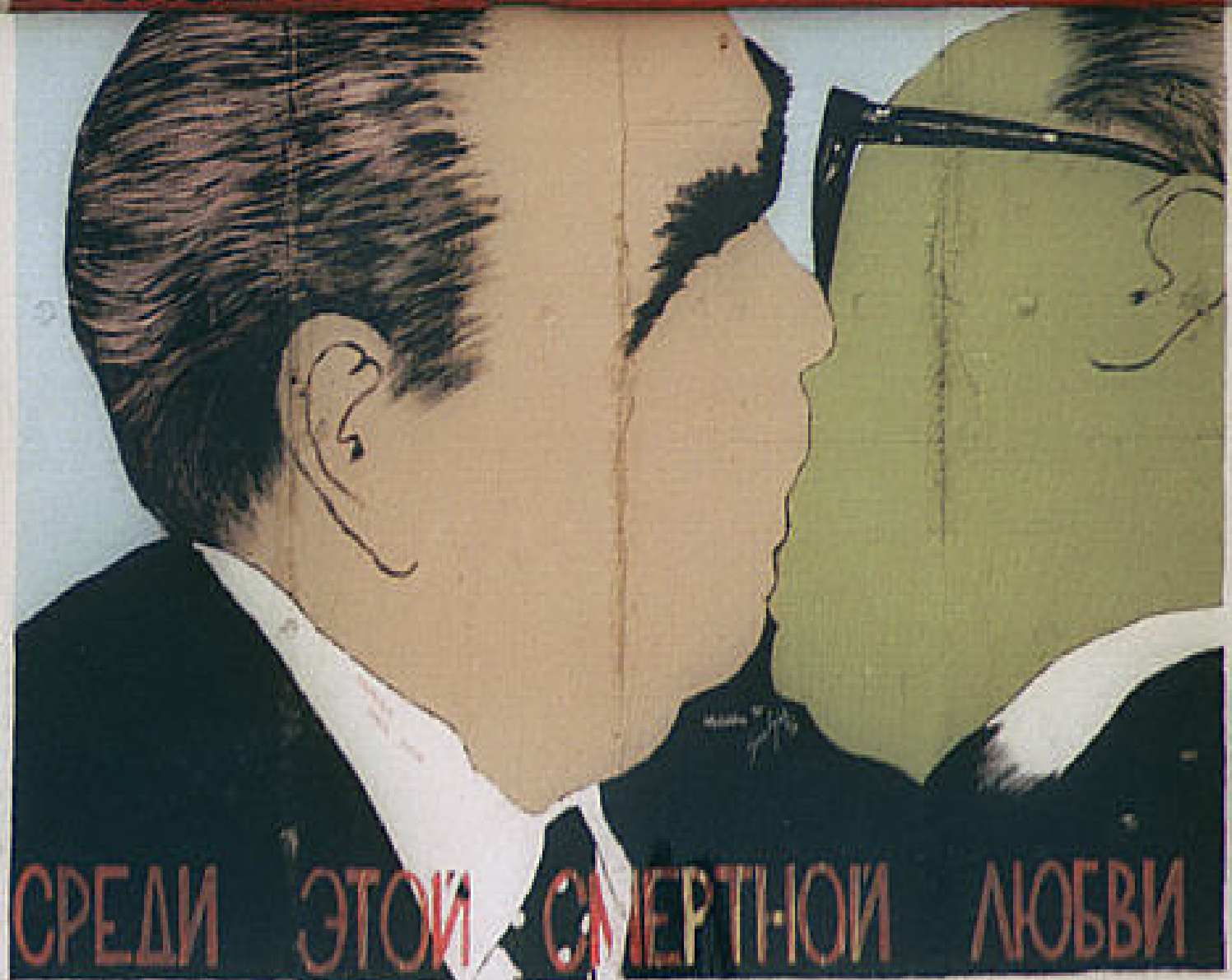
# Reunification

- Questions of when/how to unite Germany
- What do East Germans actually want?
- How will the Soviet Union react?
- Foreign policy implications
- Happens faster than thought
- Open elections
- Currency issues

# Legacy of the Wall

- Difference in attitudes/mind sets
- Acclimation to a free market
- Economic reforms and unemployment
- Pollution
- Privatization of state companies
- STASI files

ГОСПОДИ ! ПОМОГИ МНЕ ВЫЖИТЬ



СРЕДИ ЭТОЙ СМЕРТНОЙ ЛЮБВИ

ГОСПОДИ !  
ПОМОГИ  
МНЕ ВЫЖИТЬ

OF JUNE  
MAY 19

# East Side Gallery

- “Where is the Wall?”
- 0.8 mi stretch of the Wall in Berlin
  - longest preserved section
  - white side now covered in murals
- Partial restoration in 2000
- \$3 million restoration for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary



# Berlin Wall Media

- *The Tunnel*, 2001 film [*Der Tunnel*]
- *Good Bye, Lenin!*, 2003 film
- *The Lives of Others*, 2006 film
- *The Berlin Wall: A World Divided, 1961-1989*, by Fredrick Taylor
- *1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe*, by Mary Elise Sarotte
- *The People's State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker*, by Mary Fullbrook
- *1989: The Year That Changed It All*, OSU History Department's *Origins* podcast

- This presentation was developed for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies by Eileen Kunkler.